

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An iontophoretic device for transdermally delivering a medicament when applied to an affected area of a living subject's body, wherein the device comprises:

a buffering agent associated with a polymeric gel matrix; wherein the buffering agent maintains pH of the gel matrix from approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9 and is present in a concentration of greater than about 1.0 M;

a viscosity enhancer associated with the polymeric gel matrix;

a rehydrating agent associated with the polymeric gel matrix;

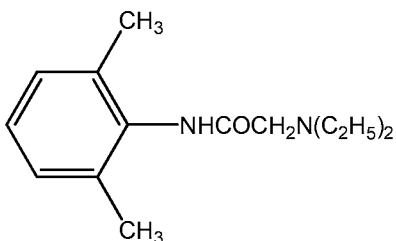
a medicament associated with the polymeric gel matrix;

an active electrode assembly associated with the polymeric gel matrix, wherein the active electrode assembly includes a first electrode in electrical communication with medicament ions in the polymeric gel matrix; ~~and~~

~~a second electrode in direct electrical communication with the living subject's body.~~

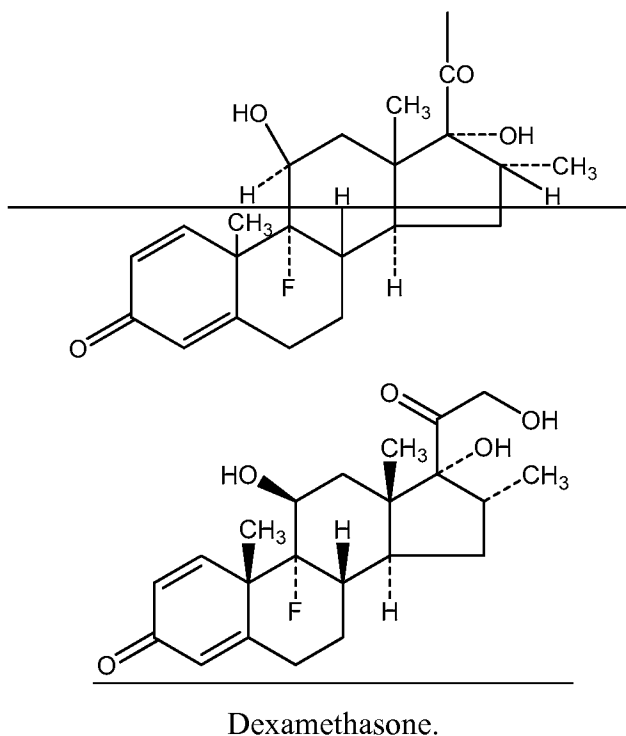
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of the following chemical structures:



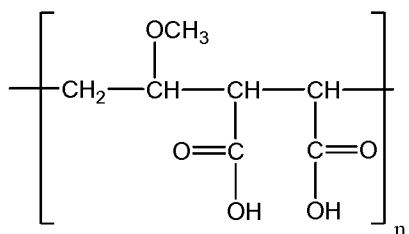
Lidocaine

and,



4. (Currently amended) The iontophoretic delivery device according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~
further comprising a second electrode assembly ~~[[is]]~~ configured for completing an electrical circuit
 between the first electrode and an energy source; and
 an energy source for generating an electrical potential difference.

5. (Previously presented) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric
 gel matrix comprises any polymer having the structure:

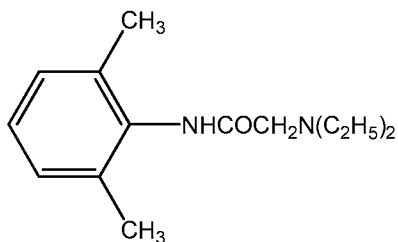


wherein n is an integer greater than or equal to 2.

6. (Cancelled)

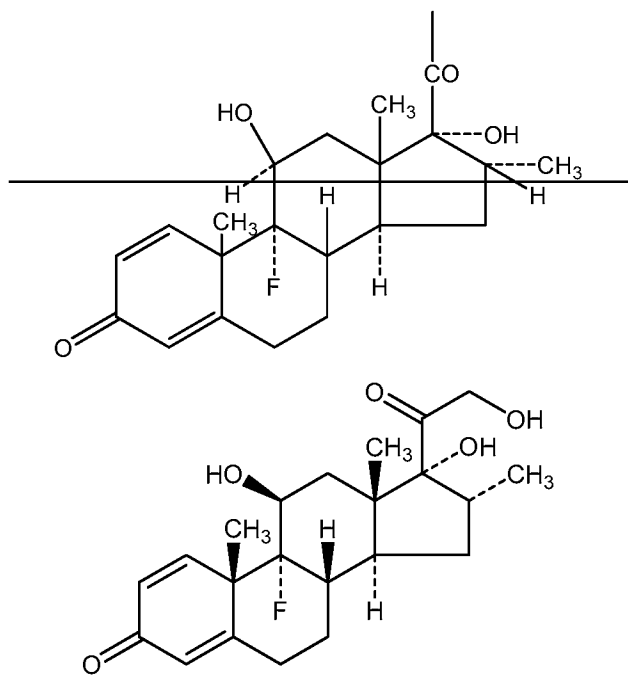
7. (Previously presented) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity enhancer is hydroxy ethyl cellulose.
8. (Previously presented) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the rehydrating agent is polysorbate 20.
9. (Original) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the active electrode assembly includes an open-faced or high current density electrode.
10. (Currently amended) A method for treating an affected area of a living subject's body, wherein the method comprises the steps of:
 - associating a medicament with a matrix in an iontophoretic delivery device;
 - providing an effective amount of pH buffering agents to the matrix, wherein the buffering agents maintain the pH of the matrix from approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9 and are present in a concentration of greater than about 1.0 M;
 - providing a viscosity enhancer to the matrix;
 - adding a rehydrating agent to the matrix;
 - associating an active electrode assembly with the matrix, wherein the active electrode assembly includes a first electrode in electrical communication with medicament ions in the polymeric gel matrix;
 - ~~providing a second electrode that is in direct electrical communication with the living subject's body;~~
 - positioning at least a portion of the iontophoretic delivery device on the affected area of a living subject; and
 - iontophoretically delivering the medicament to the affected area of the living subject to minimize skin inflammation.
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of the following chemical structures:



Lidocaine

and,



Dexamethasone.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the pH buffering agents comprise one or more amino acids.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the rehydrating agent comprises sodium polyacrylate.

16. (Previously presented) The iontophoretic device according to claim 1, wherein the pH is maintained at about 4.5.

17. (Currently amended) An iontophoretic device for transdermally delivering a medicament when applied to an affected area of a living subject's body a patient's skin, wherein the device comprises:

a buffered polymeric gel matrix positionable adjacent to a patient's skin;

a viscosity enhancer associated with the polymeric gel matrix, wherein the viscosity enhancer comprises hydroxy ethyl cellulose having a concentration of less than about 0.3% by weight;

a rehydrating agent associated with the polymeric gel matrix, wherein the rehydrating agent comprises sodium polyacrylate having a concentration of less than about 0.6% by weight and polysorbate 20;

a medicament included in the polymeric gel matrix; and

an electrode assembly associated with the polymeric gel matrix, wherein the electrode assembly includes a first electrode adapted to receive the medicament from the polymeric gel matrix and deliver the medicament to the patient's skin.

18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the electrode assembly includes a second electrode positioned remotely from the first electrode.

19. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the buffered polymeric gel matrix comprises a buffering agent having a concentration of greater than about 1.0 M.

20. (New) The device of claim 19, wherein the buffering agent comprises a polymer having pendant carboxylic acid moieties and an amino acid.

21. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the rehydrating agent comprises sodium polyacrylate having a concentration of less than about 0.6% by weight and polysorbate 20, and the viscosity enhancer comprises hydroxy ethyl cellulose having a concentration of less than about 0.3% by weight.

22. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the rehydrating agent comprises sodium polyacrylate having a concentration of less than about 0.6% by weight and polysorbate 20, and the viscosity enhancer comprises hydroxy ethyl cellulose having a concentration of less than about 0.3% by weight.